

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLFERS' QUOTES

“There’s some majestic holes. This is the only one I’ve ever played. It’s a beautiful plush course. Nice course, well kept. Tough, tough, tough. It’s nice, first class. A lot of the courses I’ve played seem to have development right around them or there is noise and things going on around them outside of golf, and this is like you’re playing golf in the middle of a forest with not a lot of civilization around. No houses on the course and no freeways next to it.”

John White, 58, from Valley, after playing at Lakes course at Grand National in Opelika

“I like the Legislator the best. Of course it always changes. Whichever one I’ve been playing the most I want to go to the others. I get in a routine of playing whatever is open. In the summer time I’ll play the Senator a lot since there is no shade on it and no one goes out there. After the summer I’m ready to play the other ones. I like the tree-lined fairways. I like the pine trees on a lot of the holes. I go down to Greenville a lot because it seems like it’s never that crowded. It’s pretty crowded here on the weekend, so I’ll go because it’s less than an hour away. They all feel pretty similar. You come up and the clubhouses all give you that same

feeling. They all have that same kind of wrap around porch. You usually have some pretty good views from the clubhouse. You see the ceiling fans out there with the rocking chairs so it’s kind of a Southern atmosphere. Being from the South I kind of like the feeling of a plantation style clubhouse like this.”

Lt. Col. Paul Odom, 42, who is from Simsboro, La., and lives at Maxwell Air Force Base the last three years. He has a handicap of five with his top scores at Capitol Hill being 73s on the Legislator and Senator

“Even the aspect of the food and bar service. You play at Greenville, you play here, you go to Opelika and you still get the same quality. It’s all good, and that’s important. It’s part of the experience. It’s a higher echelon golf course that you don’t normally get on public sources. For the public to be able to play on these type of golf courses it’s great. That’s not only in the state of

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Alabama. I drive all over the country and I've seen advertising up on billboards in Wisconsin for this. They talk about it everywhere. 'Are you from Alabama? Man, the Trail, it's unbelievable.'"

Terry Portemont, 54, from Andalusia

"It seems like on the Senator, you hit a drive straight down the fairway and you get out there and you can't find it because it rolled off. At least on the Judge, you have a chance if it goes in the weeds or goes off the side. It's a country club environment on an above average public course. I play Auburn-Opelika once a year. The only ones I haven't done is the one in Mobile and Greenville. They're always first class."

Dean Vette, 50, from Montgomery, who plays 10 rounds a year at RTJ with The Judge in Prattville being his favorite

"We have fun and we gamble. If you win your match, you win some money. Just the camaraderie. They treat us well here. We stay at the Marriot and there are plenty of restaurants to eat at nearby. The course itself is great. I like the Judge. It's tough, it's challenging. ... I've played Opelika, Muscle Shoals, Huntsville and Birmingham. I've been to all of them except Mobile. I like them all. ... The bang for your buck here, this is it right here. I've spent more money and been disappointed."

Michael Smith, 46, Memphis, Tenn., who comes with a group of 20 every year to the

RTJ Trail for a Ryder Cup type format with his friends

"This is the first time for me. I loved the courses. The layout. The overall landscape, the layout and the design itself it's great. It makes you hit shots. It's challenging the entire time but once you understand the course you can manage it better."

Kevin Petite, 48, from Memphis, Tenn., who said he would rate his first experience at RTJ as a 10 on a scale from one to 10

— *Compiled by Ethan Bernal*

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